

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 640

By McNally

A RESOLUTION to commend and congratulate the Board of Directors, employees, retirees, and customers of the Tennessee Valley Authority upon the eightieth anniversary of the unified development of the Tennessee River System.

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority submitted to Congress in March 1936 a Plan for The Unified Development of the Tennessee River System; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Valley Authority manages thirty-three reservoirs in Tennessee: Boone, Cherokee, Chickamauga, Douglas, Fort Loudoun, Fort Patrick Henry, Great Falls, Melton Hill, Nickajack, Nolichucky, Normandy, Norris, Ocoee 1, Ocoee 2, Ocoee 3, Raccoon Mountain, South Holston, Tellico, Tims Ford, Watauga, Watts Bar, and Wilbur, along with eight small reservoirs in the Beech River watershed in West Tennessee and portions of Kentucky, Pickwick, and Guntersville reservoirs; and

WHEREAS, beginning with the planning, design, construction, and initial operations of Norris Dam in 1936 and ending with the closing of the gates at Tellico Dam in 1979, the Tennessee Valley Authority completed its system of locks, dams, and reservoirs on the Tennessee River; and

WHEREAS, July 28, 1936, marks the date of initial operations of Norris Dam, the first dam constructed by the Tennessee Valley Authority; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Valley Authority, through its system of dams, established flood control and hydropower development on the once raging Tennessee River and its tributaries, whose watershed receives an average annual rainfall of fifty-one inches, annually producing an average of 14.5 billion kilowatt hours of renewable, pollution-free, low cost electric

power and annually preventing an average of \$260 million in estimated flood damages on the Tennessee, Ohio, and Mississippi rivers; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Valley Authority has developed the transportation potential of the Tennessee River through ten dams with navigation locks, providing direct employment for more than 34,000 people in waterfront industries, annual transport of over 51.5 million tons of barge traffic resulting in annual transportation savings of approximately \$1 billion, and \$8 billion annually in total economic output; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Valley Authority, through its unified river development, has, for eighty years, helped achieve the integrated resource management of the Tennessee Valley's natural resources, successfully demonstrating this concept for the nation and the world; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Valley Authority, through its system of dams and reservoirs, has conserved and developed the region's natural resources, reforesting 1.7 million acres of land, restoring fish and wildlife, improving the quality of the water and the air, and providing recreation for millions of people; and

WHEREAS, July 28, 2016, marks the eightieth anniversary of the operation of Norris Dam and officially kicks off the celebration of the Tennessee Valley Authority's unified system of dams and reservoirs constructed by the Authority on the Tennessee River and its tributaries; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we commend and congratulate the Board of Directors, employees, retirees, and customers of the Tennessee Valley Authority upon the eightieth anniversary of the unified development of the Tennessee River System.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared and transmitted to the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority.